

Aged, Blind, or Disabled Housing and Essential Needs

Staff Briefing

Prepared by Senate Ways and Means Staff

Program History

General Assistance Unemployable (GAU)

- Created in 1949
- Cash and medical assistance for individuals
- Must be incapacitated for 90 days or longer
- Cash grant of \$339 per month

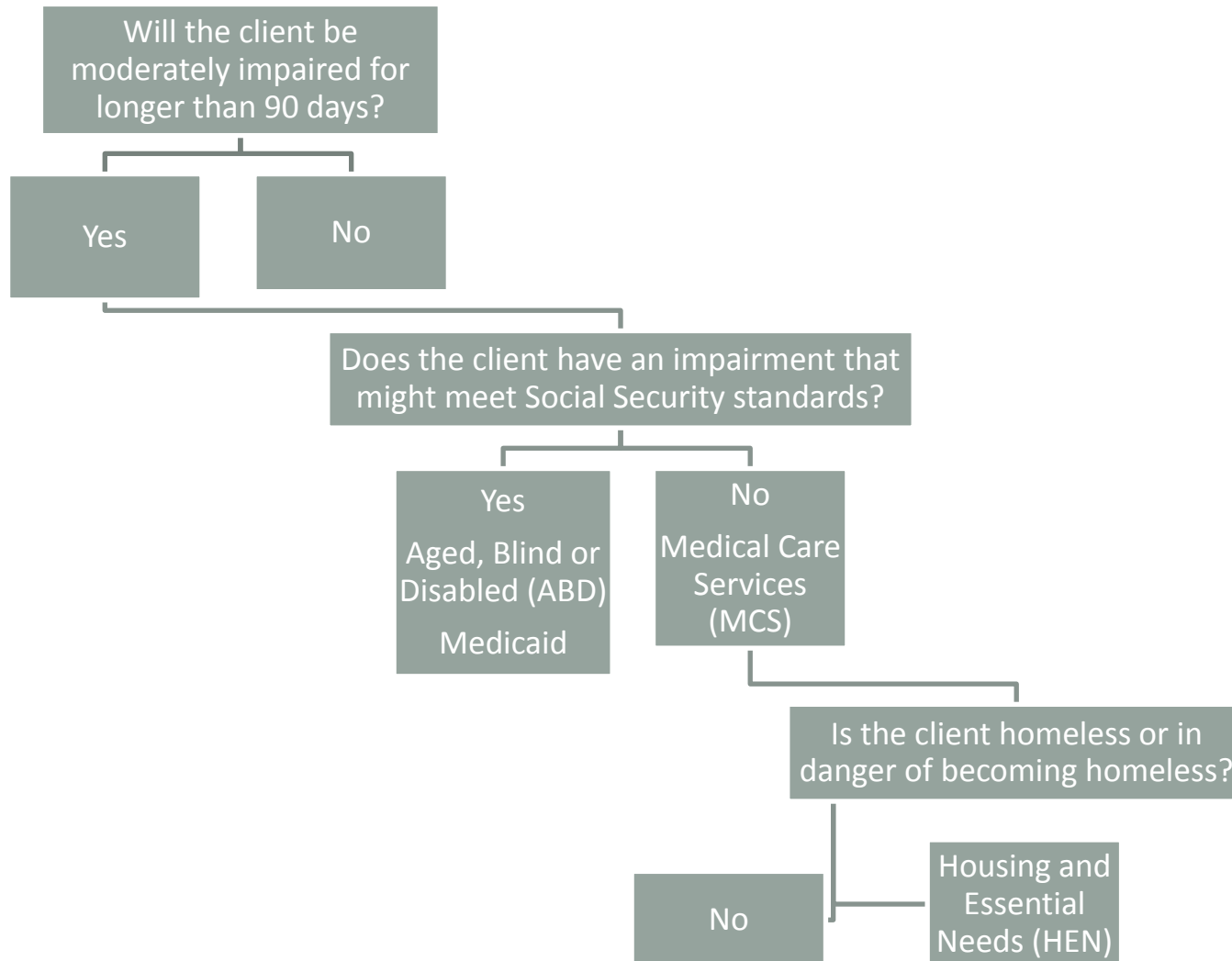
Disability Lifeline (DL)

- Created in 2010
- Cash and medical assistance for individuals
- Must be incapacitated for 90 days or longer
- Cash grant of \$197 per month

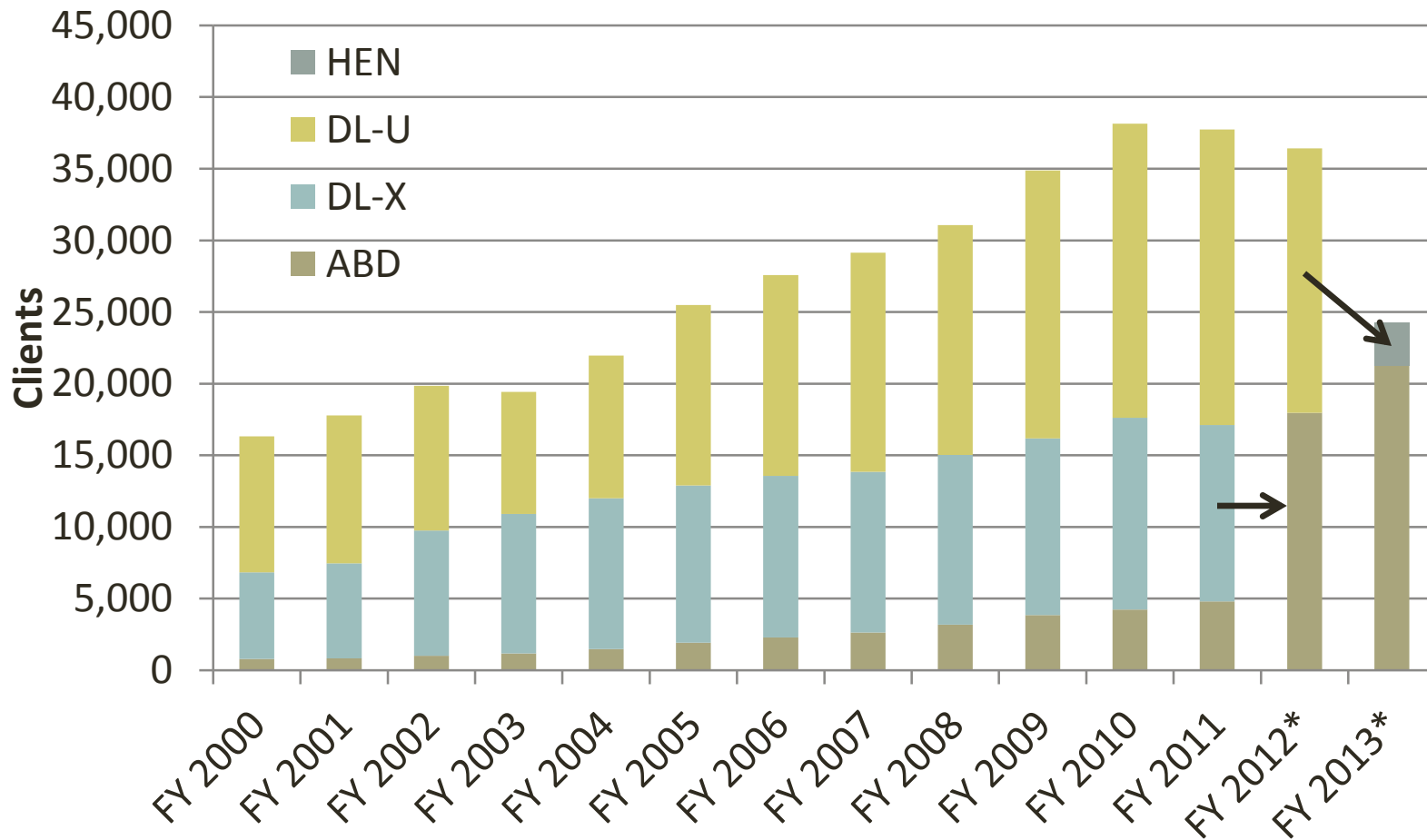
Medical Care Services Aged, Blind, or Disabled Housing and Essential Needs

- Created in 2011
- MCS/Medicaid provides medical coverage
- ABD provides \$197/month cash grant
- HEN provides housing, utility, and essential needs assistance

Any clients formerly eligible for DL cash/medical are still eligible for Medical Care Services (MCS)

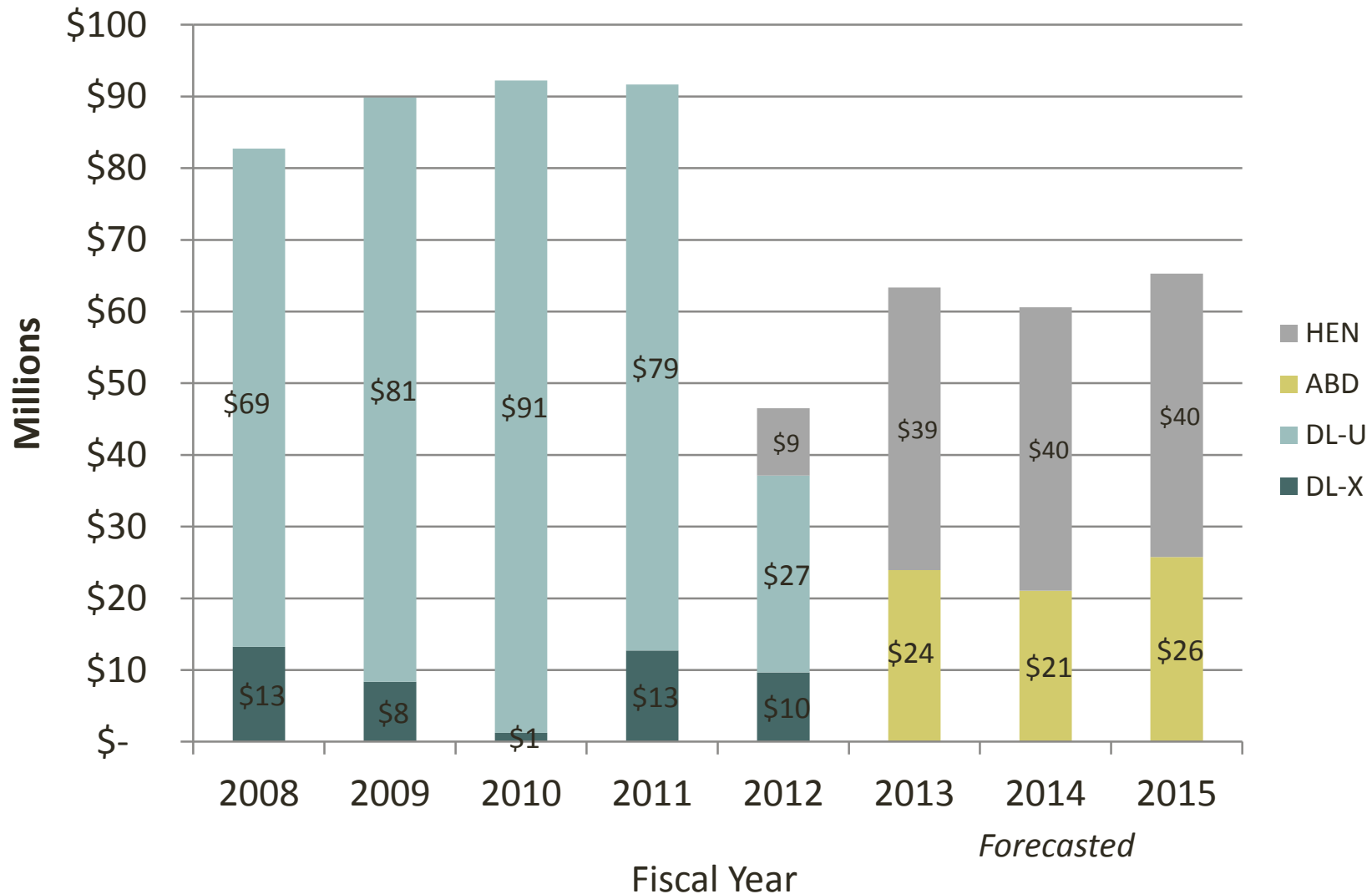


Caseloads have declined after decreases in cash assistance



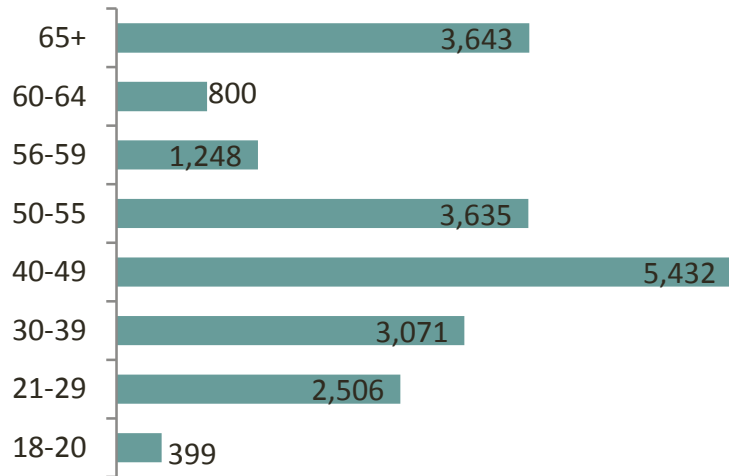
* The Disability Lifeline program was eliminated October 31, 2011 and the former DL-X clients were absorbed into the ABD program beginning November 1, 2011. DL-U clients no longer receive cash assistance.

Expenditures have declined substantially

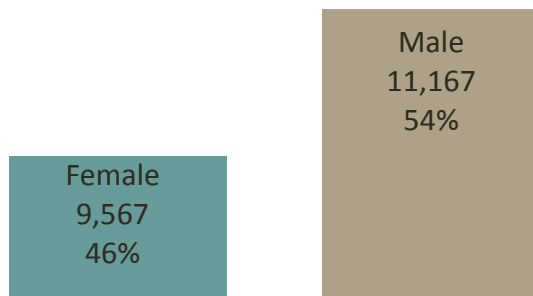


The average ABD client is a 48 year old white male

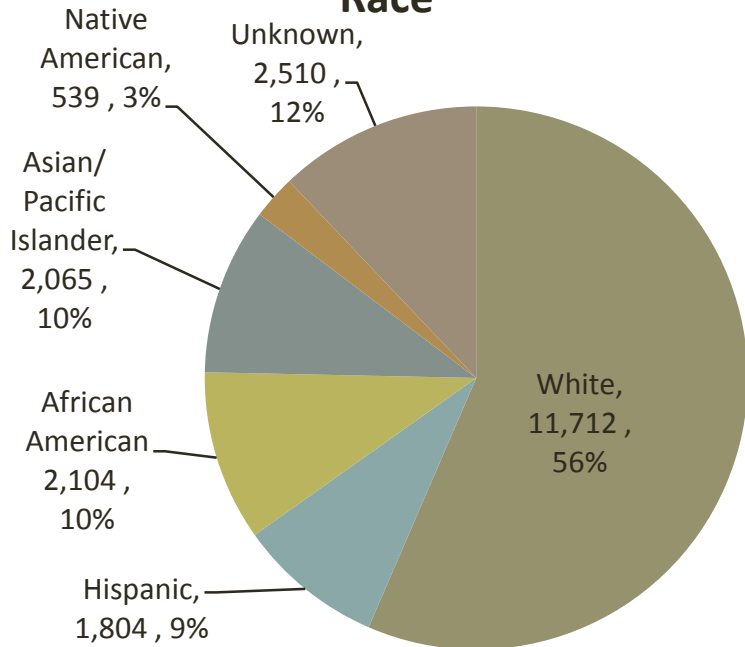
Age



Gender

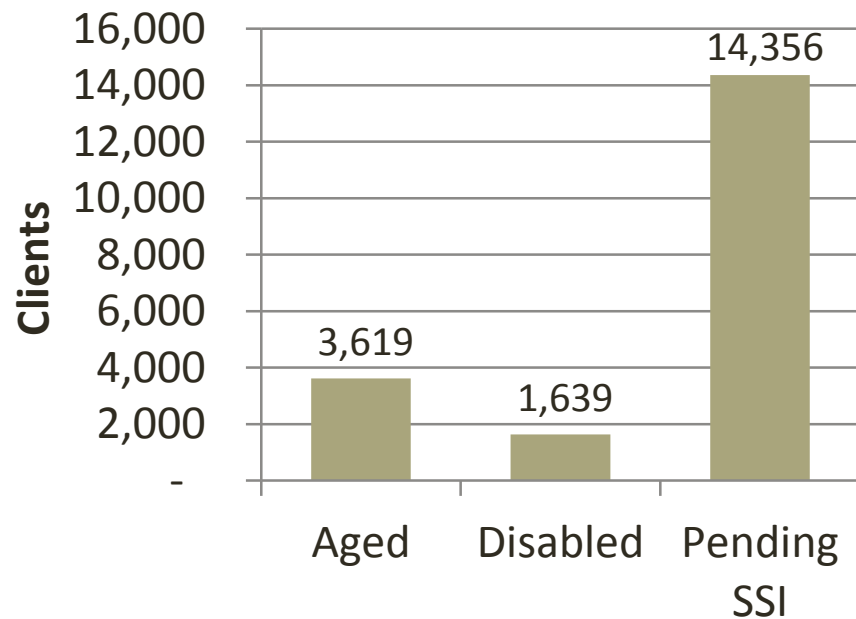


Race

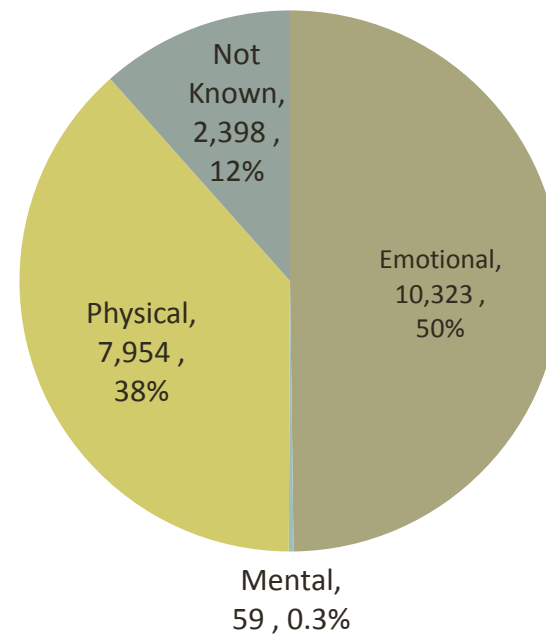


Client and Incapacity Types

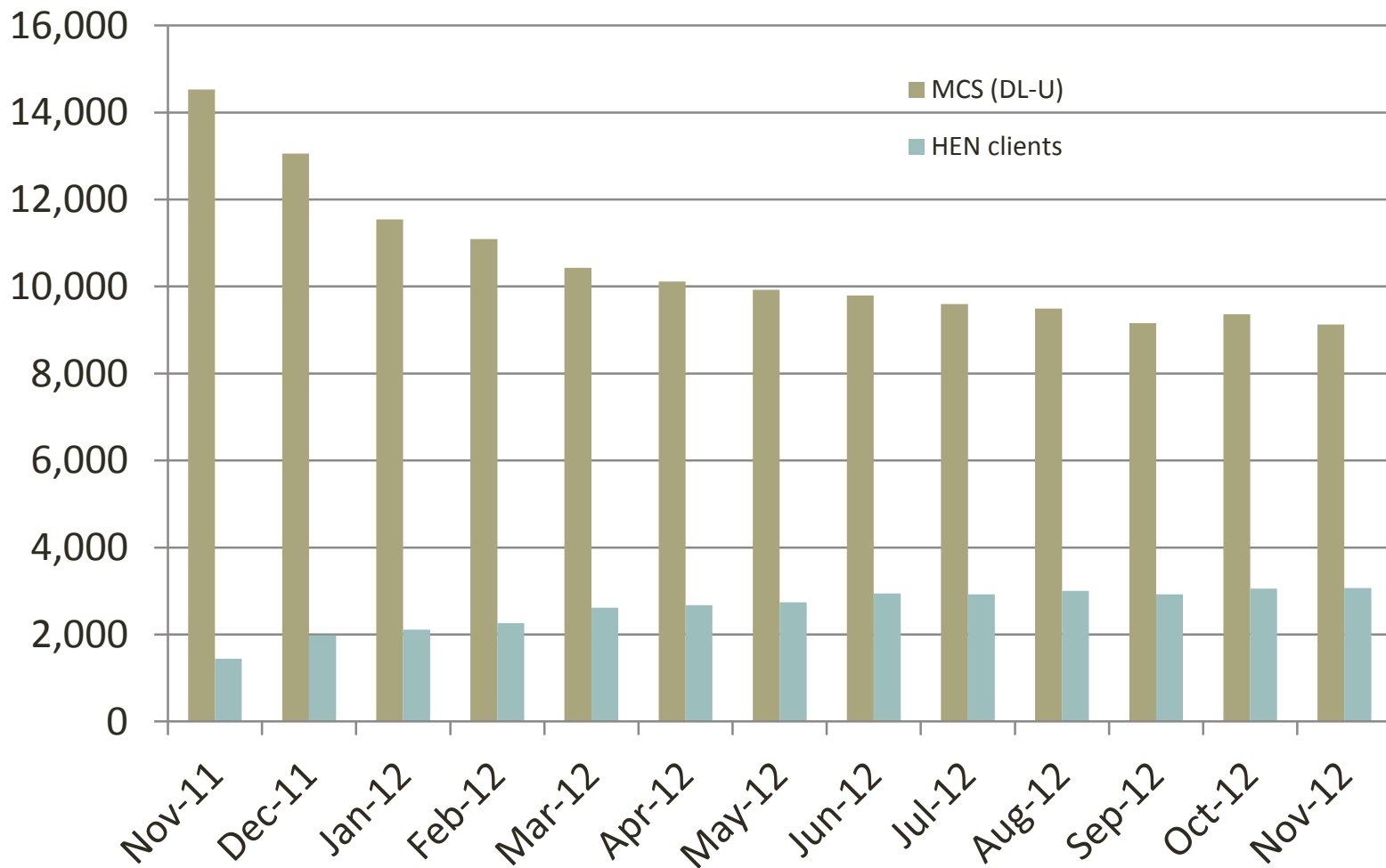
ABD Client Types



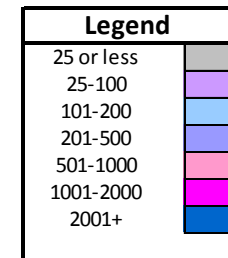
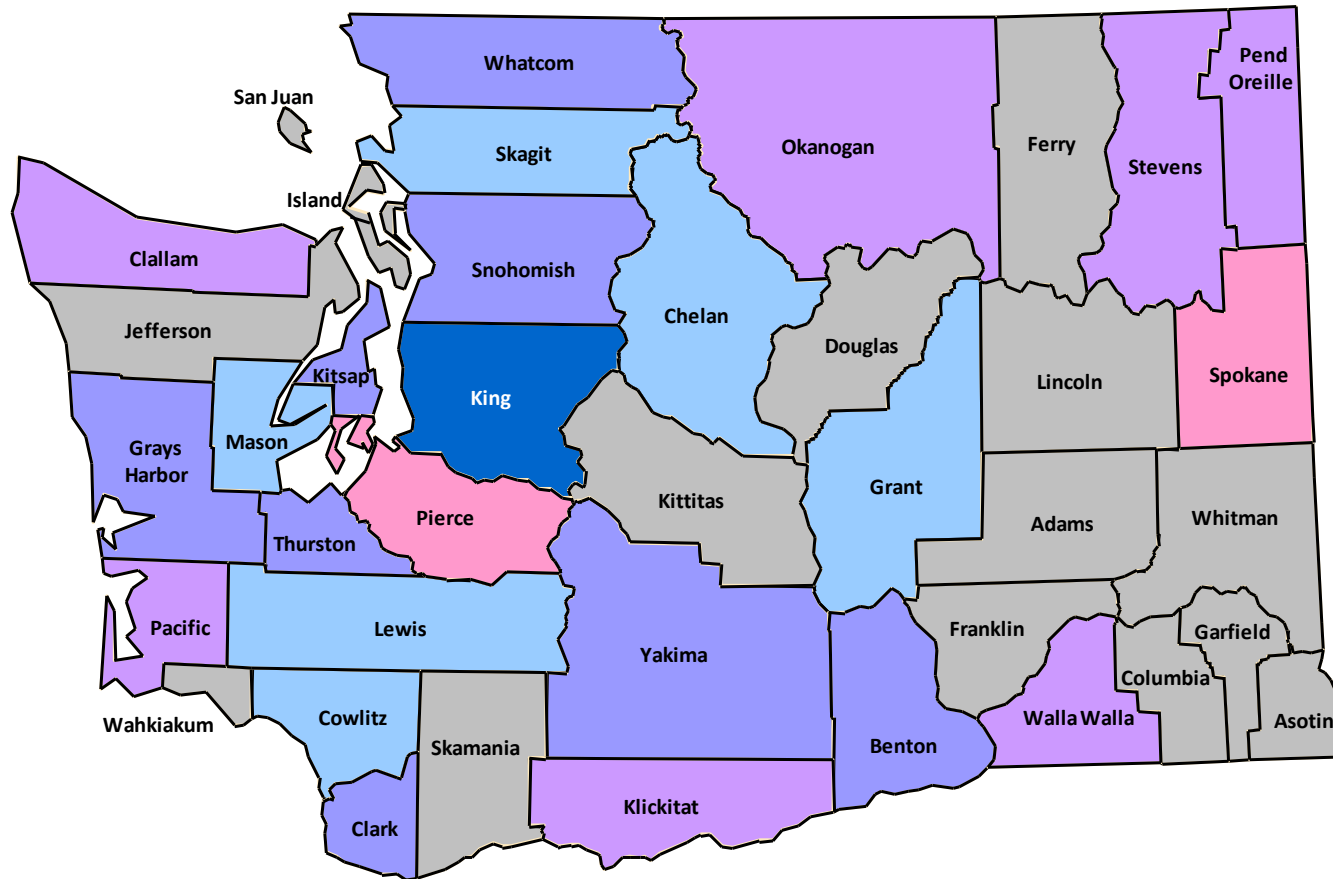
Incapacity Type



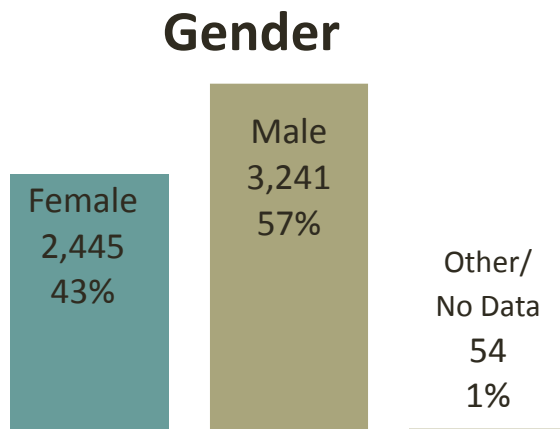
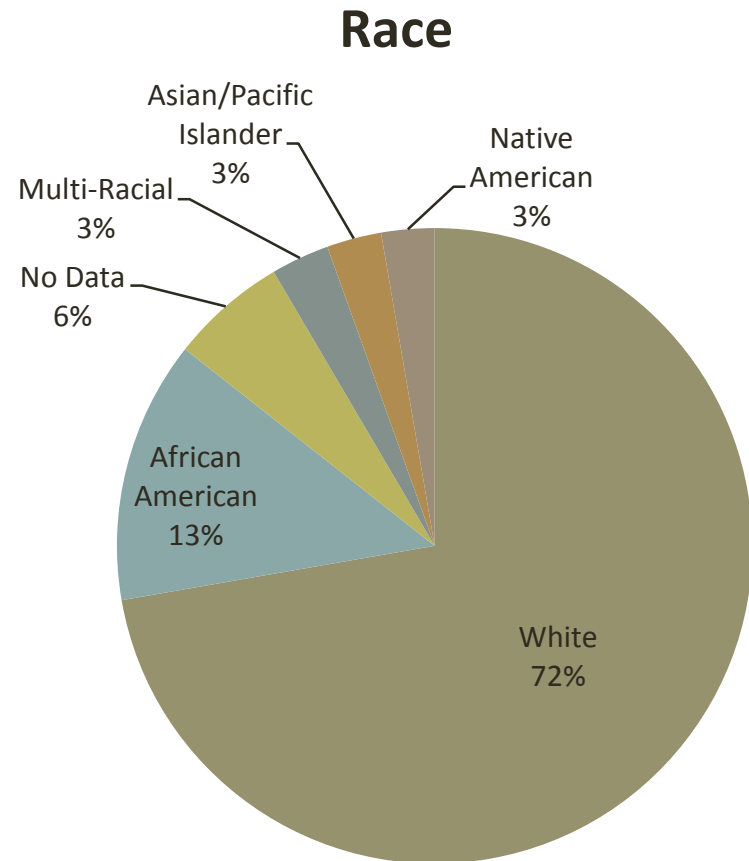
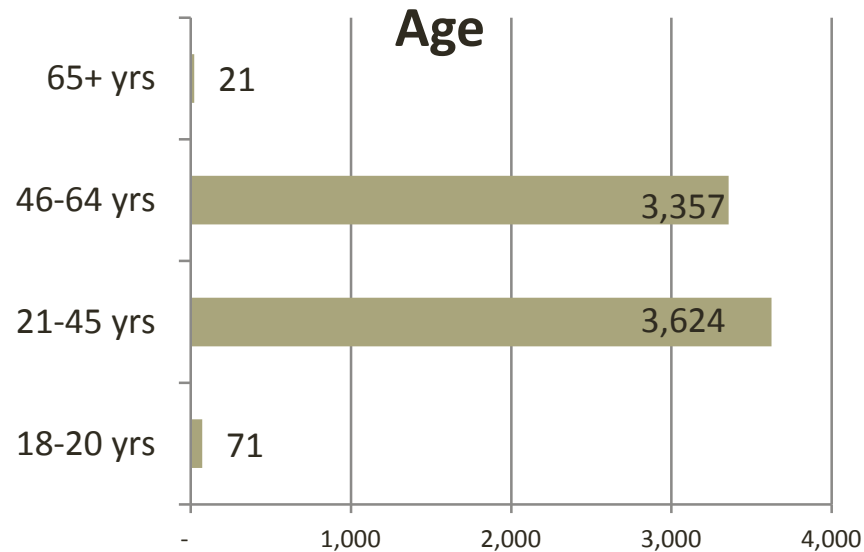
The former DL-U population has declined rapidly while HEN utilization has increased moderately



Housing and Essential Needs
Housing Vouchers and Utility Assistance
Persons Served by County (data through November 30, 2012)



The average HEN client is a 43 year old white male



ACA Implications for the ABD/HEN

- Incapacity examinations used to determine if clients should be eligible for MCS will no longer be an eligible cost under Medicaid.
- Incapacity examinations could be eliminated but must be replaced with some other eligibility determination process.
- HEN uses eligibility for MCS along with housing status as criteria for HEN eligibility. If MCS is no longer available, some other eligibility criteria will need to be developed.
- It is not clear how the continued identification of a disabled population will be viewed by the federal government under health care reform. It may limit the ability of the state to claim new applicants at a 100 percent match rate. However, it is likely a cost sharing mechanism will be provided upon further federal guidance.

Governor Gregoire's Budget

- Proposes elimination of the cash program for all but Aged clients and state run SSI facilitation.
- Funding is transferred to the Department of Commerce to be contracted with counties for additional housing and essential need services.
- Local providers may also be contracted to provide SSI facilitation.
- Commerce and DSHS will work together to develop tools for locals to use for eligibility.
- Funding model assumes only 30 percent of the population in the disabled portion of ABD will receive HEN services. This assumes similar levels of housing need as the DL-U clients.